

B1  
Carved  
43. (Twice amended) A method for treating hepatitis C viral infection comprising the administration to an animal in need of treatment a clinically effective amount of the composition of claim 42.

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B2  
45. (Amended) The composition of claim 42, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

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B3  
48. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a purified and isolated nucleic acid molecule, said nucleic acid molecule encoding a human hepatitis C virus having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, and wherein a portion of said nucleic acid molecule which encodes the structural region of hepatitis C virus has been replaced with a portion of a nucleic acid molecule of a different hepatitis C virus strain that encodes the corresponding structural region.

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B4  
51. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a purified and isolated nucleic acid molecule, said nucleic acid molecule encoding a human hepatitis C virus having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, and wherein a portion of the nucleic acid molecule which encodes at least one HCV protein has been replaced with a portion of the genome of another hepatitis C virus strain which encodes the corresponding HCV protein.

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52. (Amended) The composition of claim 51, wherein the HCV protein is selected from the group consisting of: NS3 protease, E1 protein, E2 protein and NS4 protein.

53. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a purified and isolated nucleic acid molecule, said nucleic acid molecule encoding a human hepatitis C virus having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein a portion of the